

REMARKS

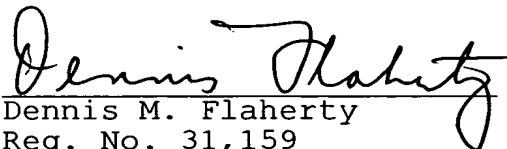
The apparatus claims from the parent application have been canceled, leaving only method claims. New method claims have been added. Also some discrepancies and informalities in the method claims from the parent application have been corrected by suitable amendments.

The Applicant requests that the filing fee be computed based on the number of claims pending after entry of this Preliminary Amendment. As a result of this amendment, this divisional application will have 18 total claims and 4 independent claims.

The Applicant requests early and favorable action on claims 4-10, 19-23 and 28-33.

Respectfully submitted,

March 19, 2004
Date


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